

John Campbell

BOGNOR URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1910.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOGNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my 21st Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Bognor for the year ended 31st December, 1910.

The area of the District is 865 acres and contains about 1840 inhabited houses.

During the last five years the increase in the number of inhabited houses has been as follows :—

In 1906 there were 1586 Inhabited Houses.

„ 1907	„	1625	„	„
„ 1908	„	1773	„	„
„ 1909	„	1797	„	„
„ 1910	„	1840	„	„

42 plans of new buildings and 29 plans of alterations to old buildings were approved by the Council. 72 houses were erected during the year and 22 are in course of erection.

The population estimated to the 30th June, 1910, is 8100.

The gross number of deaths during the year was 78, viz :—41 males and 37 females. These deaths were distributed over the 12 months as follows :—

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
January	11	2	13
February	4	6	10
March	2	3	5
April	2	2	4
May	5	4	9
June	3	2	5
July	4	3	7
August	3	3	6
September	2	2	4
October	2	4	6
November	1	4	5
December	2	2	4
	—	—	—
	41	37	78
	—	—	—

Included in this number are five deaths which occurred in Public Institutions in the District.

I have received from the Medical Officer of Health for Chichester the names of nine Bognor residents who died in the Chichester Infirmary, Asylum, or Workhouse during the year. These deaths, in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, are not included in the figures used in arriving at the death rate of the District, but they are included in table IV which deals with deaths at the various ages of residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.

I am pleased to report that the estimated death rate for the year is a low one, namely 9.6 per 1000.

The total number of deaths, and the death rates since the increase of the area of the district, which took place on 1st October, 1900, are as follows :—

	TOTAL.	RATE.
1901	66	10.5
1902	80	12.4
1903	76	11.4
1904	82	11.9
1905	71	10.0
1906	66	9.0
1907	75	10.0
1908	69	8.9
1909	103	13.0
1910	78	9.6

The various ages at which death occurred during the year under report were as follows :—

Under 1 year	7
1 year and under 5 years	0
5 years and under 15 years	7
15 years and under 25 years	3
25 years and under 65 years	28
65 years and under 80 years	19
80 years and over	14
	—
	78
	—

The ages of death of those of 80 years and upwards were as follows :—

2	at	80
1	„	81
1	„	82
2	„	83
2	„	84
2	„	85
1	„	87
1	„	88
1	„	89
1	„	92

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	2	Pneumonia	...	...	3
Enteritis	...	...	1	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1	Premature birth	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	7		Heart diseases	...	...	11
Other Tuberculosis diseases	...	4		Accident	...	...	1
Cancer and other malignant diseases	9			All other causes	...	...	31
Bronchitis	...	...	6				

The death from accident was that of a boatman drowned at sea.

During the year there were, as stated, 7 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, which gives an infantile mortality rate of 0.8 per 1000 general population and 53.8 per 1000 births registered.

These were distributed over the 12 months as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	—	—	—
February	—	1	1
March	—	—	—
April	1	—	1
May	—	—	—
June	—	1	1
July	1	1	2
August	—	—	—
September	—	—	—
October	—	1	1
November	—	1	1
December	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	2	5	7
	—	—	—

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, adopted by your Council in 1891, I have received 46 Certificates, viz :—Scarlet Fever 35, Diphtheria 7, Erysipelas 4.

The totals notified during the last 10 years were as follows :—

1901	29	1906	35
1902	39	1907	38
1903	26	1908	33
1904	35	1909	17
1905	34	1910	35

These cases were spread over the 12 months as follows :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.
January	3	—	—
February	—	—	—
March	1	—	—
April	5	3	1
May	4	—	—
June	2	2	—
July	6	—	1
August	1	2	—
September	—	—	—
October	7	—	—
November	3	—	—
December	3	—	2

Six of these cases, namely of Scarlet Fever, occurred in a Public Institution in the Town.

Three cases terminated fatally, namely 2 from Diphtheria, and 1 from Erysipelas, which gives a death rate from notifiable diseases of 0.3 per 1000 estimated population.

Twenty-three cases, namely, 19 of Scarlet Fever and 4 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital, of these 1 of the cases of Diphtheria ended fatally. All the other cases left the Hospital cured.

Disinfection of premises occupied by patients suffering from notifiable diseases was carried out by the Sanitary Authority in all cases.

During the year the Council have sanctioned a Diphtheria Antitoxic Serum Station at Messrs. Long & Strickland's, Chemists, where any Medical Practitioner can obtain the Serum, free, day or night. I would suggest that, in addition an Antitoxin Syringe should be supplied which could be lent for the use of the Serum and returned immediately to the station after being sterilized.

Two swabs were taken from the throats of suspected cases of Diphtheria. In both cases positive results were obtained.

A case of Anthrax which terminated fatally occurred during the year to a Slaughterman. The disease was contracted whilst dressing a carcase outside the District. Every possible care was taken, not only of the case, but also against further spread of the Malady. At the termination of the case, the premises were thoroughly disinfected, and all linen, clothes, etc., which had been in contact with the patient were burnt. There was no further spread of the disease.

The number of births registered in the District was 130, viz:—58 males and 72 females.

This gives a birth rate of 16.0 per 1000 estimated population.

The births were as follows, viz:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	7	9	16
February	5	5	10
March	1	5	6
April	5	9	14
May	3	5	8
June	8	7	15
July	5	9	14
August	10	2	12
September	2	7	9
October	2	5	7
November	5	5	10
December	5	4	9
	58	72	130

The figures for the previous five years were as follows :—

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	RATE.
1905	59	59	118	16·7
1906	52	79	131	18·0
1907	61	72	133	17·7
1908	60	61	121	15·7
1909	73	59	132	16·7

The aspect of Bognor is almost due South, it is sheltered from the East and North East winds by the South Downs. The air is remarkably pure, balmy and bracing, having the mildness of the southern, and the dryness of the eastern coast. The surface soil is gravelly and very porous, the roads dry rapidly after rain. Fogs are rare, and in summer few days occur without sea breezes tempering the heat. The prevailing wind is South West. Snow is rarely seen and when it falls it disappears rapidly. The sands decline gradually from the parade, constituting a safe playground for children. At high tide the sea reaches up to the parade, the foreshore getting well washed twice daily.

The sea fishing forms the principal industry of the town.

The housing accommodation for the working classes is adequate and fit for habitation.

There is sufficiency of open space about the houses and cleanliness of surroundings.

The water supply of the Town is ample in quantity and still maintains its high standard of purity as shown by the accompanying report. It is drawn from deep wells at the foot of the Downs, about 7 miles distant, where there is a pumping station which fills a covered service reservoir on the side of the hill, from which the water falls by gravitation to the Town.

45, Great Tower Street,
London, E.C.,

REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the
Bognor Urban District Council.

The sample has been examined with the following results :—

Appearance	bright
Reaction	alkaline
Sediment	too minute for microscopical examination

PARTS PER MILLION.

Ammonia free and saline	a trace.
Ammonia albuminoid	0·02
Oxygen absorbed in 20 minutes	0·04
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours	0·08

GRAINS PER GALLON.

Total solid matter	22·26
consisting of	slightly discolouring on ignition.
Volatile matter and	1·12
Non-volatile matter	21·14

The solid matter on a further analysis was found to contain the following basic and acid bodies :—

Silica	0.42
Alumina	0.14
Iron, suspended	a trace
Iron, soluble	a trace
Lime	9.33
Magnesia	0.47
Potash	0.09
Soda	0.99
Chlorine	1.55
Nitric Acid	1.35
Sulphuric Acid	0.48
Lead and Copper	none found

The above basic and acid bodies would exist in the water combined together in all probability as under :—

Sodium Chloride	1.86
Potassium Chloride	0.13
Calcium Chloride	0.56
Calcium Nitrate	2.05
Magnesium Sulphate	0.72
Magnesium Carbonate	0.48
Calcium Carbonate	14.91
Silica, Alumina and Oxide of iron	0.56
Total hardness	17.83 degrees.
Temporary hardness	15.48 "
Permanent "	2.35 "

I consider this water satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes. Its composition is virtually the same as when examined in March, 1908.

E. B. MORITZ.

The Bognor Urban District Council,
Bognor.

The milk supply is good, and is chiefly imported from the neighbouring farms.

There are thirteen milkshops, nine dairies, and five cowsheds in the District. These have been inspected thirty-five times during the year by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself and they have been found generally in a cleanly and satisfactory condition.

Under the sale of Food and Drugs Act, 7 samples were taken during the year viz :—

1 of cream, 3 of milk, 1 of rice and 2 of whiskey which were forwarded to the public analyst all of which were returned as genuine.

There are five slaughter houses in the District. These have been periodically inspected during the year. They have been inspected also at times of slaughtering.

No carcases, or parts of carcases have been condemned for tuberculosis.

No fish, fruit, or other foods have been condemned during the year.

The sanitary condition of the premises where foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale is satisfactory.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district and the sanitary condition of the bakehouses in general has been found satisfactory.

The sewers and drains in all parts of the District are sufficient.

The sewage is disposed of by the water carriage system with outfall into the sea.

The sewers are well ventilated: New ventilators have been erected in the Sluice Patch, which now effectually ventilate the Bersted Tank Sewer; this was hitherto unventilated.

New sewers have been laid in the Elfin Way, Nyewood Lane, and Burnham Avenue.

The most important private drainage system which was relaid during the year was at the back of Sudley Terrace. This was a combined system of drainage affecting four properties and was in a very defective, leaky and unsanitary condition. Each property has now a separate and modern system of drainage.

During the season the house refuse is collected (in covered carts provided by the Council) twice a week, during the rest of the year it is collected once a week. Houses have been provided with new sanitary dustbins with covers where necessary.

The Council had great difficulty in finding a suitable site for a refuse tip, the site eventually selected was just outside the District. Numerous complaints were received from the tenants of houses in the neighbourhood of the tip. The site was inspected by an Inspector from the Local Government Board, the Medical Officer of Health for the District in which the tip is situated, and myself. As a result of this inspection we were unanimously of opinion that a more suitable site should be found, and that the present refuse tip should be removed with as little delay as possible. We further inspected two sites which were agreed upon as being suitable. The Council are now in negotiation for the purchase of one of the sites, situated in the Shripney Road, for the erection of a Refuse destructor.

54 nuisances were reported to the Sanitary Authority during the year, in 26 of these cases notices were served for the abatement which have all been complied with, the remaining 28 were abated without notice being served.

No injurious or offensive trades are carried on in the District.

The Public Elementary Schools are supplied with town water, and are in a sanitary condition. During the vacations they are thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

There has been no epidemic of infectious disease during the year and it has not been necessary therefore to close any of the Schools.

A special School Medical Officer is appointed by the County Council for the inspection of the children in the Public Elementary Schools.

The Isolation Hospital, which was finished last year, has been found to be of great benefit in many cases. It is quite adequate in size, and is efficient in every respect.

The total number of cases treated at the hospital during the year was 23.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, which requires notification of all pauper cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, I have received 1 certificate.

One death occurred among this class of patient, and the rooms were thoroughly disinfected by the Sanitary Authority.

There is no hospital accommodation for these cases.

The factories on the register at the end of the year and under the supervision of the Council are 7 in number and are classified as follows:—

Steam Laundry	1	Forage Contractors	2
Mineral Waterworks	1	Printers	2
Stone Mason	1		

The Workshops on the register at the end of the year were 72 in number and are classified as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	9	Dressmakers	...	...	11
Tailors	...	...	6	Laundries	...	...	4
Carpenters	...	...	11	Shoemakers	...	...	7
Plumbers	...	...	4	Coach Builders	...	...	2
Horse Farriers, &c.	...	...	6	Watch Makers	...	...	4
Undertakers and Cabinet Makers	2			Cycle Manufacturers	...	...	3
Harness Makers	...	2		Brick Makers	...	...	1

All the above Factories and Workshops have been inspected during the year, four defects in the sanitary accommodation were found. All have been remedied.

Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 has been put in force. The only two cesspools in the district have been done away with and the houses drained into the main sewer.

Systematic inspections of the district have been made from time to time or as occasion required, by myself or the Sanitary Inspector. Regular monthly reports of the work have been laid before the Sanitary Committee. Besides this general supervision, I have paid 51 special visits in cases where required.

The scavenging and watering of the streets under the control of the Council have been thoroughly and systematically carried out.

The most important road improvement carried out in the town during the past year was that of Nyewood Lane. This scheme provides the district with an efficient surface water drain, which is connected with the water course in Sheepwash Lane, and conveys the large quantity of water, which used to collect every winter in this locality, direct to the sea. The Lane, which used to resemble a muddy swamp, has now been turned into a first class road, properly sewer'd, metalled, kerbed, channelled and lighted.

Other very important road improvements have also been carried out under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, viz :—in Longford Road, Neville Road and Highfield Road.

The Marine Drive Improvement is nearly finished, although the scheme was a costly one, owing to the value of the land which had to be purchased for the widening of the road, the improvement was urgently necessary on account of the increasing traffic along the sea front.

The Urban Council have also during the year made many improvements to the roads under their control by taking off dangerous corners and by using a more durable material for metalling the road. Flints are being gradually abandoned and granite substituted.

The surfaces of the roads in the principal parts of the Town have been tar painted, thus greatly diminishing the dust nuisance. The paving of the streets is now in excellent condition.

The town is still without sufficient female lavatory accommodation at the West end of the town. As was pointed out in my last report it is necessary that a lavatory should be provided without delay for the use of the increasing number of excursionists.

I would draw your attention to the fact that the work of the Public Health Department steadily increases as year by year Parliament throws greater and more extended responsibilities upon Local Authorities.

I enclose Tables I, II, III, IV and V specially required by the Local Government Board, and I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Sanitary Committee and Inspector of Nuisances for the courtesy and help they have extended to me during the year.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. CONWAY-COOKE,

Associate of King's College, London,
Fell. Royal Institute of Public Health,
Medical Officer of Health.

Bognor,

3rd March, 1911.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

Name of District: BOGNOR URBAN SANITARY.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District				
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.									
		Number.	Rate	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1900.	4856	81	16.6	14	172.8	73	15.0	6	6						
1901.	6232	108	17.3	7	64.8	66	10.5	5	5						
1902.	6439	145	22.5	14	96.5	80	12.4	5	5						
1903.	6647	118	17.7	7	59.3	76	11.4	5	5						
1904.	6854	137	19.9	17	124.0	82	11.9	1	1						
1905.	7062	118	16.7	15	127.1	71	10.0	2	2						
1906.	7269	131	18.0	11	83.9	66	9.0	3	3						
1907.	7477	133	17.7	9	67.6	75	10.0	4	4						
1908.	7685	121	15.7	10	82.6	69	8.9	4	4	6	71	9.2			
1909.	7892	132	16.7	11	83.3	103	13.0	7	7	9	105	13.3			
Averages for years 1900-1909.	6841.3	122.4	17.8	11.5	96.1	76.1	11.2	4.2	4.2						
1910.	8100	130	16.0	7	53.8	78	9.6	5	5	9	82	10.1			

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by water) 865 Acres.

Total population at all ages 6180

Number of inhabited houses 1210

N.B.—Until the 1st Oct., 1900, the area of the District was 503 acres. On that date the area was increased by the addition of 362 acres.

Average number of persons per house 5.1

At Census of 1901.

1.	2.
<p>Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.</p> <p>Merchant Taylors' Convalescent Home for Men.</p> <p>Merchant Taylors' Convalescent Home for Women.</p> <p>Victorian Convalescent Home for Surrey Women.</p> <p>Cambridge House (Children).</p> <p>Victoria Convalescent Home (Women).</p> <p>Princess Mary's Memorial Home (Women).</p> <p>Scott Memorial Home.</p> <p>Arthur's Home (Children).</p> <p>Princess Mary's Convalescent Home (Children).</p> <p>Rest Lodge.</p> <p>Spring Cottage.</p> <p>Maconachie Home.</p> <p>Cottage Homes.</p>	<p>Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.</p> <p>Westhampnett Union.</p> <p>Chichester Infirmary.</p> <p>Various London and Provincial Hospitals and Convalescent Homes.</p> <p>Various Sanatoria for the open air treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</p> <p>Gralingwell Asylum situated at Westhampnett near Chichester.</p>

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1910.

Name of District: BOGNOR URBAN SANITARY.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	AT ALL AGES.			TOTAL CASES REMOVED	
				TO HOSPITAL.	
Small-pox	—	...	—
Cholera	—	...	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)		7	...	...	4
Erysipelas	4	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	35	...	...	19
Typhus Fever	...	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—
Relapsing Fever	...	—	—
Continued Fever	...	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—
Plague	...	—	—
Totals	...	46	...	...	23

Bognor Isolation Hospital on outskirts of Town provided by Bognor Urban District Council.

Total available beds: 24. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated: 2.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.
Name of District: BOGNOR URBAN SANITARY.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "nonResidents" in Public Institutions in the District 9
	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and upwards. 8		
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including membranous croup) 2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) 8	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases ...	4	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Cancer, malignant disease ...	10	...	...	...	...	6	4	...	...
Bronchitis ...	6	1	...	...	...	1	4	...	...
Pneumonia ...	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases ...	12	...	...	...	...	3	9	...	...
Accidents ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	37	3	...	2	1	9	20	2	...
All Causes ...	87	7	...	4	3	31	37	5	...

TABLE V.

BOGNOR URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1910 for the URBAN DISTRICT of BOGNOR, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories .. .. .. ..	..	..	..
(Including Factory Laundries).	7	..	..
Workshops	80	4	..
(Including Workshop Laundries).			
Workplaces .. .. .. ..	..	..	..
(Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).			
Total	87	4	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness
Want of ventilation
Overcrowding
Want of drainage of floors
Other nuisances	4	4	..	..
insufficient
Sanitary accommodation { unsuitable or defective
not separate for sexes
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshp Act:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s 101)
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100).
Other offences
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).
Total	4	4	..	..

3.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

<u>FACTORIES.</u>	<u>Workshops.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Steam Laundries 1	Bakers 9	
Mineral Water Works .. 1	Tailors 6	
Forage Contractors .. 2	Carpenters 11	Factories
Printers 2	Plumbers 4	7
Stone Masons with Steam Plant 1	Horse Farriers 6	
	Undertakers & Cabinet Makers 2	
	Harness Makers 2	Workshops.
	Dressmakers 11	72
	Laundries 4	
	Shoemakers 7	
	Coach Builders 2	
	Watch Makers 4	
	Cycle Makers 3	
	Brickmakers 1	

Important classes of Workshops such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.

